

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A rack and pinion steering system for a motor vehicle, comprising a pinion having an axis and having a first contact surface around the axis, having a steering housing (1) in which

a rack having a longitudinal direction across the axis of the pinion and the rack being (4) is mounted so as to be longitudinally displaceable along the longitudinal direction thereof; the rack having a second contact surface that engages the first contact surface, the rack (4) having a prismatic form with including two bearing faces (4.1, 4.2) which are inclined at an angle to the toothing plane engagement of the first and second contact surfaces and being symmetrical symmetrically with respect to the first contact surface along the axis;

the rack having a third side opposite the second contact surface; toothing, and having a pinion (3.1), which meshes with the rack (4), and bearing faces on the third side;

a pressure piece (5) which is arranged on that the third side of the rack (4) which lies opposite the engagement side with the pinion (3.1) and , the pressure piece having has a back pressure face which rolls without sliding on the bearing faces on the third side (4.1, 4.2) of the rack (4), the pressure piece (5) being prestressed in the axial direction against the rack; (4) with the aid of a spring (7), wherein the pressure piece (5) has having two of the bearing faces (5.1, 5.2) which lie opposite generally opposed to one another and are inclined with respect to one another[[,]];

at least in each case one axial roller bearing at each bearing face, the roller bearing comprising (9, 10) with in each case two spaced apart runner plates (9.1, 9.2, 10.1, 10.2) and a rolling body set (9.3, 10.3) situated between them the runner plates, being arranged in the bearing faces (5.1, 5.2) of the pressure piece (5) which lie opposite one another; one runner plate (9.2, 10.2) of said each axial roller bearing (9, 10) being held fixedly in the respective pressure piece (5) so as to rotate with it; and the other rotatable runner plate (9.1, 10.1) of said the axial roller bearing (9, 10) extending inclined at a defined angle α with respect to the bearing face, (4.1, 4.2) of the rack (4); with the result that the angle α defining a point of contact (9.5, 10.6) is formed between the bearing

face (4.1, 4.2) of the rack (4) and the rotatable runner plate, the contact point being less than the entire width of the other runner plate along the axis of the plate (9.1, 10.1).

2. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rack (4) has a generally Y-shaped profile.

3. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rotatable runner plate has a (9.1, 10.1) is of spherical cap configuration and its having a convex spherical cap face is in punctiform contact with the bearing face (4.1, 4.2) of the rack (4).

4. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the axial roller bearing is a ball bearing (9).

5. (Original) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the axial roller bearing is a needle bearing.

6. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 4, wherein that runner plate of the ball bearing (9) which is ~~arranged fixedly~~ fixed in terms of rotation in the pressure piece (5) is configured as a sleeve (9.8) having an edge which engages around the runner plate (9.1) of spherical cap configuration ~~with its edge (9.9).~~

7. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the axial roller bearing is configured as an axial angular contact needle bearing (10), ~~the bearing including bearing needles, (10.3) of which are guided in a cage (10.4) and a cage guided at the needles for the needles bearing.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the rotatable runner plate ~~(9.1)~~ of the ball bearing ~~(9)~~ is of has a mushroom-shaped configuration with including a stem ~~(9.10)~~ and a convex spherical cap face, a sleeve accommodating the stem ~~(9.10) being accommodated by a sleeve (9.11), the and~~
a needle ring (9.12) of which surrounds the stem (9.10).

9. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a retaining element connecting the runner plates ~~(9.1, 9.2)~~ of the axial roller bearing ~~(9)~~ are connected to one another by a retaining element (9.4).

10. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pressure piece has a blind hole; and the axial roller bearing ~~(9, 10)~~ is inserted into a the blind hole ~~(5.6)~~ of the pressure piece ~~(5)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pressure piece has a through hole; and the axial roller bearing ~~(9, 10)~~ is pressed into a the through hole ~~(5.7)~~ in the pressure piece ~~(5)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~component parts (9.1, 9.2, 10.1, 10.2, 9.8, 9.11)~~ of the axial roller bearings ~~(9, 10)~~ are manufactured at least partially by a chipless shaping operation.

13. (Currently Amended) A rack and pinion steering system for a motor vehicle, comprising a pinion having an axis and having a first contact surface around the axis,
a rack having a longitudinal direction across the axis of the pinion and the rack being mounted to be displaceable along the longitudinal direction thereof; the rack having a second contact surface that engages the first contact surface, the rack having a prismatic form including two bearing

faces which are inclined at an angle to the engagement of the first and second contact surfaces and being symmetrical with respect to the first contact surface along the axis;

the rack having a third side opposite the second contact surface; bearing faces on the third side;

a pressure piece arranged on the third side of the rack, the pressure piece having a back pressure face which slides on the bearing faces which are on the third side of the rack, the pressure piece being prestressed in the axial direction against the rack; the pressure piece having two of the bearing faces which lie generally opposed to one another and are inclined with respect to one another;

~~The rack and pinion steering system according to the preamble of claim 1, wherein the pressure piece (5) has two bearing faces (5.1, 5.2) which lie opposite one another and are inclined with respect to one another, at least in each case one axial sliding bearing, at each bearing face, (11) with in each case the axial sliding bearing comprising two runner plates (11.1, 11.3) being accommodated in the bearing faces (5.1, 5.2) of the pressure piece (5) which bearing faces lie opposed to opposite one another, one of the runner plate (11.3) plates of said the axial sliding bearing (11) being held fixedly in the pressure piece (5) so as to rotate with it, and the other rotatable runner plate (11.1) of said the axial sliding bearing (11) extending inclined at a defined angle α with respect to the bearing face (4.1, 4.2) of the rack (4), with the result to define that a point of contact (11.7) is formed between the bearing face (4.1, 4.2) of the rack (4) and the rotatable runner plate (11.1).~~

14. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the rotatable runner plate (11.1) is of has a mushroom-shaped configuration with including a stem (11.2) and a convex spherical cap face, the runner plate which is fixed in terms of rotation is configured as a sleeve (11.3), the sleeve has a base (11.4) ~~of which is~~ provided with an axially oriented projection (11.5), and the axially oriented projection (11.5) being in contact with the base of the stem (11.2), ~~and~~

~~bearing needles (11.6) being arranged between a the circumferential surface of the stem (11.2) and the sleeve (11.3).~~

15. (Currently Amended) A rack and pinion steering system for a motor vehicle, ~~having a steering housing (1) in which~~ comprising a pinion having an axis and having a first contact surface around the axis

~~a rack (12) is~~ having a longitudinal direction across the axis of the pinion and the rack being mounted so as to be longitudinally displaceable along the longitudinal direction thereof; the rack having a second contact surface that engages the first contact surface, the rack having a the back side of said rack (12) which lies opposite the second contact surface thereof, the second contact surface a toothing system having an arcuate form, and having a pinion (3.1) which meshes with the rack (12), and having

~~a pressure piece (13) which is arranged on that the back side of the rack (12) which lies opposite the engagement side with the pinion (3.1) and~~ second contact surface thereof, the pressure piece has a back pressure face which rolls without sliding on the rack (12), the pressure piece (13) being prestressed in the an axial direction thereof and against the rack; (12) with the aid of a spring (7), wherein

~~the pressure piece (13) has~~ having two bearing faces (13.1, 13.2) which lie generally opposite opposed to one another and are inclined with respect to one another; [[,]] at least in each case one

for each bearing face, an axial roller bearing (9) with in each case comprising two spaced apart runner plates (9.1, 9.2) and a rolling body set (9.3) situated between them being the runner plates and arranged in the respective bearing faces (13.1, 13.2), one runner plate (9.2) of said the axial roller bearing (9) being held fixedly in the pressure piece (13) so as to rotate with the pressure piece it, and the other rotatable runner plate (9.1) of said the axial roller bearing (9) forming is shaped and oriented to have a point of contact (9.5) with the rack (12).

16. (Currently Amended) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the rack (12) ~~is provided with~~ has a longitudinal recess (12.1) which is adapted to the profile of the rotatable runner plate (9.1).

17. (New) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second contact surfaces are toothed and the toothing thereof are in mesh.

18. (New) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a spring operable to prestress the pressure piece.

19. (New) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first and second contact surfaces are toothed and the toothing thereof are in mesh.

20. (New) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 14, further comprising the stem has a circumferential surface; and bearing needles arranged between the circumferential surface of the stem and the sleeve.

21. (New) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first and second contact surfaces are toothed and the toothing thereof are in mesh.

22. (New) The rack and pinion steering system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a spring operable to prestress the pressure piece.